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Chairman: Mr. Andersson (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Sweden)

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In the absence of Mr. Acharya (Nepal), Mr. Andersson (Sweden), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 33: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Gidor** (Israel) said that Israeli officers had participated in peacekeeping courses organized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the first time in 2006. His Government was interested in contributing some of its military experience and technological proficiency in order to assist peacekeeping operations. It had accumulated unparalleled expertise in the areas of military observers, police training and forensic science and hoped to expand its contribution to the Department's operations.

2. **Ms. El Alaoui** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that peacekeeping operations must observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in agreements concluded at ministerial conferences. Peacekeeping operations should show respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in matters that were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of States. They should be provided with political support, adequate human, financial and logistical resources and clearly defined and achievable mandates. Peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of a conflict and it was important to ensure that there was a smooth transition to lasting peace, security and development after the cessation of peacekeeping operations.

3. The primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rested with the United Nations and regional arrangements should function in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. However, regional arrangements made an important contribution to regional peace and security. The efforts undertaken by the African Union and other subregional organizations required continuous and consistent support. In that connection, the World Summit had called for the implementation of a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union. The high number of casualties of peacekeepers in the field remained a serious cause for concern and it was necessary to modernize peacekeeping capabilities and to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers by enhancing technology and information and communications capacities in the field.

4. As far as conduct and disciplinary issues were concerned, member States of the Non-Aligned Movement supported a policy of zero tolerance and were committed to preserving the image, credibility and integrity of the United Nations. There was a need to improve the Organization's ability to manage peacekeeping operations effectively and efficiently and to achieve the key objectives outlined in the reform agenda. Member States should be engaged in that reform process. Furthermore, a wide range of peacebuilding activities were needed to support the political process and the Peacebuilding Commission should play a decisive role in bringing greater political awareness and support to long-term peacebuilding. Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement provided more than 80 per cent of peacekeeping personnel in the field and were committed to increasing their contribution. However, there was a need for equal treatment of all troop-contributing countries, which should be engaged early and fully in all aspects and stages of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Secretariat should continue its efforts to address the current imbalance of geographical representation at Headquarters and in the field of unrepresented and underrepresented troop-contributing countries. Member States of the Movement were insufficiently represented at the professional level and it was necessary to identify qualified candidates for senior mission posts from major troop-contributing countries. In connection with the proposal to recruit civilian cadre personnel, it was important to maintain a balanced and fair geographical representation.

5. **Mr. Hassan** (Jordan) said that, in view of the surge in peacekeeping, it was important to continue to advance the reform agenda with a view to enhancing and improving the capacity to manage peacekeeping operations and to achieve optimal transition to peacebuilding. A rule of law component and a holistic approach to security sector reform should be employed at an early stage of peacekeeping. His Government supported the proposal to overhaul the way in which the Department of Peacekeeping Operations staffed peacekeeping operations and the establishment of a substantial capacity of civilian peacekeepers. However,

it was important to deliberate further on the nature of civilian participation in peacekeeping. Information and communication technology capacities needed to be substantially improved and technical monitoring and surveillance could be used to improve security in those areas that were too volatile for monitoring from the ground. In connection with allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, his Government looked forward to the revised model memorandum of understanding, the national investigations officers concept and the comprehensive strategy on victims. Another area of concern was the organization of joint meetings between members of the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. Those meetings had been established with the purpose of promoting a frank discussion and exchange of views but had primarily focused on briefings by the Department. All Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV).

6. **Mr. Maqungo** (South Africa) said that peacekeeping operations should be conducted in a manner that respected the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of the affected States. While the maintenance of international peace and security rested with the United Nations, regional organizations such as the African Union had made important contributions. He welcomed the assistance that the United Nations had provided in developing the peacekeeping capabilities of the African Union but noted that it was essential to allocate adequate resources to ensure that peacekeepers had the necessary support to achieve their mandate. The Department should continue its engagement with Member States to facilitate the implementation of the reform programme. However, it was untenable that there were only 12 military planners for a deployed force of approximately 100,000 troops in several missions. In addition to strengthening the military capacities, it was necessary to improve regional representation at higher management levels. The rapid response capacity was still a major factor inhibiting peacekeeping operations and Member States should examine the concept in the context of the differing capabilities of States. The Special Committee had recognized the importance of comprehensive strategies and his Government welcomed the establishment of civilian police components.

7. Peacekeepers continued to work in dangerous situations, a fact underscored by the 72 fatalities suffered in 2006. He called on all parties to refrain from engaging in acts likely to endanger the lives of peacekeeping personnel and welcomed the improved measures for the sharing of information between troop-contributing countries and field commanders. In connection with allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, it was important to focus on prevention because that kind of behaviour undermined confidence in the United Nations. His Government had developed training programmes to shape the attitudes of peacekeeping personnel and all allegations of sexual exploitation were investigated in a timely manner. Commensurate disciplinary measures were taken against those found guilty. His Government welcomed the efforts to establish universal norms to ensure the accountability of United Nations staff and experts on mission and the report of the first Group of Legal Experts appointed by the Secretary-General contained in document A/60/980. In relation to criminal acts by peacekeepers, the Department should continue with its efforts to implement a prevention aspect of its comprehensive strategy. Furthermore, it was important to bridge the divide between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Commission should ensure the implementation of an integrated approach that provided for conflict prevention and management and developed the capacity of social institutions.

8. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that the continuing surge in demand for peacekeeping was a vote of confidence, trust and faith in the United Nations. The nature and scope of peacekeeping had evolved progressively and there was a growing requirement for professional and well-equipped peacekeepers. Complex missions required better and effective management, organization, planning, deployment and logistics. It was necessary to ensure the political commitment of Member States to peacekeeping and specific operations and to ensure that missions were provided with adequate and timely resources. The fact that some missions lacked adequate resources affected their effectiveness and jeopardized the safety and security of peacekeepers. Furthermore, the United Nations should continue its reform programme at Headquarters and in the field and implement a comprehensive approach to

conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The United Nations was often the only credible interlocutor and all Member States should extend sustained political support to that role. However, such support should evoke non-discriminatory and equal treatment from the Secretariat.

9. Pakistan supported reform efforts for better management of peacekeeping activities, including all actors, in particular troop-contributing countries. The lack of representation of troop-contributing countries at senior leadership levels should be addressed. It was encouraging that partnerships had grown through comprehensive approaches, including integrated missions. The Peacebuilding Commission was one such approach that offered hope for effective peacekeeping strategies. Still, regional partnerships, in particular with the African Union, should be enhanced. The United Nations should focus its efforts on, and use its peacekeeping capacity to, enhance its role in conflict prevention and resolution.

10. A civilian peacekeeping cadre with equitable geographical representation should be established in order to ensure adequate capacity for all aspects of peacekeeping operations. It was also important to agree on standards, policies and strategies for the zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

11. As a leading troop contributor over the past few years, Pakistan was concerned that United Nations deployment of peacekeeping operations without the support of national governments could erode universal support for United Nations peacekeepers. The Committee needed to discuss in detail, with the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, the deployment of peacekeepers, the concept of a robust mandate and the use of force.

12. **Mr. Hunger** (Switzerland) said that sustainable peace could not be achieved by military means alone; therefore it was crucial to maintain a strong link between the operational and political aspects of missions. While his delegation welcomed improvements in the working methods of the Committee and the increased number of meetings, it was concerned about efficiency and encouraged the Committee to set priorities and to allow time for meeting preparation.

13. Switzerland supported the five priority reform areas of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and welcomed efforts to compile guidelines on best practices. It was also important to develop standardized training and behaviour modules as clear guidelines were critical to the success of operations. The Department and troop-contributing countries should continue their efforts to implement training measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by civilian and military peacekeeping personnel.

14. It was vital to complete the recruiting process for a standing police capacity and to ensure that it would include highly qualified and reliable personnel. Rapidly deployable capacities needed to be enhanced for successful peacekeeping operations, and they could be further enhanced by improving integrated planning so all strategic partners could cooperate in a transparent and constructive manner. He called on the Committee to address integrated missions and partnerships through enhancing its cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission. The Department should also enhance cooperation with the Peacebuilding Support Office.

15. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that the increased demand for and complexity of missions made rapidly deployable standby capacity and police contingents necessary. In order to mobilize resources and establish a standing police capacity and strategic reserve force, the Department, along with the Peacebuilding Commission, should enhance partnerships with regional and other intergovernmental organizations. Kazakhstan was working to enhance cooperation among Member States, United Nations agencies and regional organizations.

16. Peacekeeping operations should be conducted according to the United Nations Charter and other basic peacekeeping standards, including the consent of parties involved and the non-use of force, except in self-defence. He welcomed action taken to correct the misconduct and abuses by peacekeeping personnel on field missions and reiterated his Government's commitment to its peacekeeping obligations and its readiness to provide peacekeeping personnel and equipment.

17. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that, while the surge in the Department's missions was an expression of renewed confidence in United Nations-led peacekeeping, it put an unprecedented strain on the Secretariat's and Member States' financial and human resources. Member States had to ensure that the

Organization successfully managed that surge in peacekeeping operations.

18. The rapid deployment of the maritime task force of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) demonstrated not only the wide spectrum of tasks faced by the United Nations but also renewed commitment of European nations and represented an opportunity to re-engage Western nations in United Nations-led peacekeeping. UNIFIL was Norway's first step towards its increased commitment to peacekeeping; it planned to focus on Darfur as its second step. Reform as outlined in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/640) was important in strengthening the renewed commitment.

19. The current structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations did not reflect the critical role played by its military component, especially during the initial phase of most operations. Addressing that problem would be crucial to enhancing the stability and security of United Nations personnel on the ground. The system needed to be more flexible, with the force commander being given greater authority over operational decisions. Joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres were important and should be established. Norway welcomed the integrated mission approach and supported the development of integrated United Nations peace operations.

20. Norway considered it a priority to establish partnerships with other organizations and firmly supported enhanced cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It also supported efforts to enhance cooperation with the African Union. Her country hoped to broaden its cooperation with the African Union by strengthening its embassy in Addis Ababa and was already engaged in a dialogue with AU on possible support for the development of the civilian dimension of the African standby force.

21. She welcomed the creation of a standing police capacity and noted that a senior police adviser would join her country's mission in New York in order to increase its capacity to follow up on civilian aspects of security sector reform. However, she was concerned by the relatively low number of women in the Department's senior management positions; in that regard, it was important to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. Finally, she reiterated Norway's support for continuing efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel and efforts to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping.

22. **Ms. Ali** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that, given the growth in demand for peacekeeping operations, the Department must adapt its strategies and enhance its capacity to respond to realities on the ground. In order to preserve the reputation of dedicated peacekeepers, the Rio Group fully supported the policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation. In that regard, the capacity of the Office of Internal Oversight Services should be strengthened to guarantee justice for all parties concerned.

23. The Rio Group welcomed the progress achieved on the reform front, in developing peacekeeping principles and policies and welcomed the efforts that had been made to enhance cooperation between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. It was also necessary to continue the Department's interactive dialogue and briefings, which would eventually enhance the quality of peacekeeping operations. Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and agencies should be enhanced to adapt to the changing nature of conflict. In that regard, she commended efforts to enhance African peacekeeping capacities. Collaboration with such regional and subregional organizations could promote information sharing and early warning capabilities. Finally, while recruitment of civilian personnel continued to be difficult, the Rio Group welcomed measures by the Department and the Office of Human Resources Management to make the process more effective. It also encouraged efforts to improve training standards for peacekeeping personnel.

24. The Rio Group commended the role of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in consolidating peace and constitutional order, establishing institutions of governance and supporting long-term development. The success of such efforts to guarantee stability and political reconciliation required enhanced human and financial resources. It was therefore critical to provide sufficient funding for the Department.

25. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) observed that the greatly expanded role of peacekeeping missions had effectively blurred the distinction between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The two processes

now essentially overlapped and complemented each other, for it had been seen that fully half of the countries emerging from war had lapsed back into violence within five years. Since the 1980's Bangladesh had contributed almost 60,000 peacekeepers to almost 40 operations in almost 30 countries. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations had done well to take an integrated approach to the safety and security of peacekeepers, a matter of overriding importance. Bangladesh itself had lost 80 of its own peacekeepers in the line of duty.

26. Although the United Nations was steadily improving its ability to respond to the unprecedented surge in and the demand for peacekeeping operations, its capacity was being sorely tested. The Peacebuilding Commission, which would gradually institutionalize the process of peacebuilding, should concentrate on marshalling those in a critical position to assist national authorities in immediate recovery efforts in order to pave the way for longer-term construction. The Peacebuilding Support Office, as both the Commission's informed secretariat and its link to the Secretary-General, would have a critical role. Throughout the peacebuilding process, it would be important to create peace constituencies comprising teachers, lawyers and religious leaders, who could act as mid-level links between the grass-roots and the elite levels. The establishment of a partnership among all the stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and civil society, would also be crucial.

27. Post-conflict societies must be in charge of their own destiny, relying on their own intellectual resources, combined with external material support. Only home-grown ideas — such as microcredit in Bangladesh, which had recently received such recognition — would transform the societal landscape and put nations on the path to development.

28. It was, however, disappointing to see the hard-earned reputation and accomplishment of peacekeeping operations tainted by the alleged sexual abuse by some United Nations peacekeepers and by the alleged procurement corruption in the field and at Headquarters. Public trust could simply not be allowed to be thus eroded; such improprieties had to be dealt with severely.

29. The Department was to be commended for improving its recruitment and planning functions, for developing a best practices section and for keeping strategic deployment stocks in readiness. The Department's Integrated Training Service, bringing together military, police and civilian trainers at Headquarters and in the field, would definitely augment its capacity in that regard. The success of a peacekeeping mission hinged on a well-coordinated partnership between the Security Council, troop contributors and the Department, with sustained consultation at every phase.

30. The challenge of the day was to dovetail peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding into a seamless progression of complementary activities at an essentially local level, though buttressed by external support.

31. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation) commended the fact that the capacity of Member States, the Secretariat and the entire United Nations system to plan and conduct peacekeeping operations had been strengthened, without compromising the Charter of the United Nations or international law. The United Nations had to deal with an increasing demand for peacekeeping forces and, at the same time, to tackle the long-overdue reform of peacekeeping operations. Some reforms had already borne fruit, such as the international integrated planning of peacekeeping operations at every stage, the improvement of military expertise for decisions on conflict prevention and settlement and the promotion of closer cooperation with regional organizations.

32. Unfortunately, the Organization had not taken full advantage of some of its unique assets, particularly the Military Staff Committee, which was underused. In that connection, he drew attention to the strategic military cells, which had been established on the initiative of the Secretariat. It was too soon to reach any conclusion as to whether the experiment would be successful, but it should not have been undertaken without prior consultation with all the Member States concerned, not least in order to avoid undermining the existing management system of peacekeeping missions.

33. Peacekeeping personnel must maintain the highest standards of conduct. Acts of sexual exploitation or abuse undermined confidence in the United Nations and must be punished. For all its importance, however, the issue should not overshadow other issues facing the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, such as the need to ensure

the security of peacekeeping personnel — both national contingents and international staff — or the inappropriate use of military observers on United Nations missions. There had been cases in which military observers had been requested to engage in military intelligence. The impartiality of military observers should not be called into question. In that connection, he emphasized the importance of the role played by the Special Committee in reviewing all issues relating to United Nations peacekeeping, since its recommendations determined the future direction of peacekeeping policy. It was therefore regrettable that the 2006 substantive session of the Special Committee had failed to complete its programme of work. The reason seemed to be that delegations continued to submit new proposals for inclusion in the draft report until the very last moment. The session should be better organized, although the Special Committee's work should not be curtailed in any way, either by abandoning the general debate or by sidelining the work on the draft report.

34. Peacekeeping had figured largely in the deliberations of the Group of Eight Summit in St. Petersburg. The report by the Group of Eight and other key donors on strengthening African peacekeeping capacity had been submitted to the Group's Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The Summit had also adopted a statement on cooperation and future action on stabilization and reconstruction, which contained a number of measures that members could undertake to increase their own response capabilities. In that connection, his delegation commended the Global Peace Operations Initiative adopted by the United States of America, which would consolidate the international community's efforts to maintain international peace and security.

35. The Russian Federation had adopted a number of measures to build up global peacekeeping capacity and, in particular, to train military observers and civil police from African countries. A total of 80 trainee African peacekeepers were to be trained every year until 2010 at the Russian National Advanced Training Institute for Interior Ministry Personnel. The Ministry would also be sending experts to peacekeeping training centres in Accra, Ghana, and Vicenza, Italy. It would also be participating in the work of the Southern African Development Community Subregional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare. The Ministry of Defence was considering the possibility of training up to 15 African peacekeepers a year in the Russian Armed Forces Peacekeeping Training Centre in Solnechnogorsk.

36. **Mr. Sardenburg** (Brazil) observed that the surge in peacekeeping operations since 2003 had posed huge organizational, logistical and financial challenges. To meet the challenges, the Secretariat must work more closely with the troop-contributing countries, 90 per cent of them — like Brazil — developing countries, and should attend particularly to their views and requests, since their service entitled them to a say on the structure of peacekeeping missions.

37. The security of troops, police and civilians working in often uncertain areas should be at the top of the agenda. Although the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had made laudable efforts in that regard, it was unfortunate that the Secretary-General's recommendations in that regard had been ignored in setting up the forthcoming mission to Timor-Leste.

38. It was also important to ensure the efficient, transparent reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, and to achieve better geographical and gender balance in the staff in charge of peacekeeping at Headquarters and overseas. Peacekeeping operations should have an adequate structure and a unified command and control, their mandate should be clear both to the peacekeepers themselves and to the Governments and populations involved, and they should be fully financed from the peacekeeping budget. The absence of any of those factors exposed the peacekeepers and the population to a fragile peace, as did hasty, ill-advised and ultimately costly decisions to withdraw or reduce peacekeeping missions in order to save money. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had made a useful proposal for institutionalizing ways of dealing with sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers so as to guarantee due process of law to the victims, the witnesses and the accused.

39. Cooperation with regional bodies — which had proved crucial in Haiti, West Africa and the Sudan — was another area that deserved full consideration, as did the establishment of the integrated framework for action discussed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/60/640). It was similarly important to reinforce the staff and funding of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to meet the needs of missions, and to

expand its cooperation with other departments in order to make the most of its resources.

40. Peacekeeping operations must commit themselves more firmly to the longer-term stability and development of the countries concerned, a task to which currently few resources were devoted. Lasting peace could not be achieved without social justice, development, the eradication of poverty and the creation of employment opportunities. Member States should ensure that the new mentality was incorporated in mission mandates and in administrative and budgetary arrangements, at least in areas such as disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and capacity-building.

41. Brazil, a troop contributor from the start, was currently involved in two special political missions and in eight operations, chief of which was MINUSTAH, where it was committed to the long-term stability and development of a fellow Latin American country. That mission had succeeded in improving the situation in the country, and now the dividends of stability must be made evident to the population in the form of social development and economic growth.

42. **Mr. Taleb** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that peacekeeping operations were tools of collective security capable of averting dangers and had proven their effectiveness in recent years despite their increased complexity. In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the budget for peacekeeping operations in the past year had climbed to $5 billion, while the total regular budget of the United Nations was only $3.8 billion. That observation summed up the political ramifications of peacekeeping. The Organization had been established to prevent wars and peacefully resolve conflicts; its original purpose was prevention and not cure — the opposite of what was the case today.

43. The first United Nations peacekeeping operation had been launched over 50 years ago in the Middle East and was still undertaking its functions capably and effectively. His country valued the sacrifices that had been made by peacekeepers throughout the world and, in particular, in the Middle East. The latest such sacrifices had been the deaths of four observers serving with UNIFIL at the hands of Israel.

44. It was important to abide by the principles and main guidelines of peacekeeping operations, rapid deployment, recruitment and the reimbursement of arrears to troop-contributing countries. Peacekeeping operations must observe the principles enshrined in the Charter, including respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of all States. Furthermore, their mandates should be viable and well defined. In keeping with the fundamental principles of General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) entitled "General principles to serve as guidelines for the sharing of the costs of future peace-keeping operations involving heavy expenditures", the financing of peacekeeping operations was the responsibility of the aggressor or the occupying Power.

45. Security measures at the headquarters of United Nations missions should also be strengthened in order to ensure the safety and security of the personnel who dedicated their lives to the goal of peace in the world. In addition, a tripartite partnership should be established between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries for the planning, organization and deployment of peacekeeping operations. His Government had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations regarding its contributions to the standby arrangements system for peacekeeping operations.

46. **Ms. Lintonen** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and, in addition, Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union was intensifying its involvement with United Nations peacekeeping operations under the European Security Strategy. It currently contributed nearly 40 per cent of the peacekeeping budget and soon would have more than 10,000 peacekeepers throughout the world.

47. As more Secretariat and peacekeeping staff were required, the cost of peacekeeping had risen rapidly. Adequacy of forces, of course, was not measured in numbers but rather in terms of professionalism, quality, equipment, doctrine and especially an effective command-and-control structure.

48. The European Union welcomed the increasing involvement of regional organizations in solving regional conflicts, as long as they acted according to

United Nations guidelines with Security Council support and respected the rule of law and human rights.

49. The European Union also planned to help strengthen the Organization's excellent operational peacekeeping capacity. Department of Peacekeeping Operations functions should be further streamlined, and more consideration given to the speedy deployment of peacekeeping troops and to lessons learned policies in order to improve performance.

50. The report of the Secretary-General (A/60/640 and Add.1) had set out the Department's reform agenda for the next five years, which the European Union endorsed; and had included an interesting proposal to establish a cadre of 2,500 career civilian positions in peace operations, which should improve their effective management. The European Union was also ready to continue exploring the different options for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities, especially the use of regional capacities in that connection, the expansion of a standing police capacity and the integrated mission planning process.

51. The doctrine of peacekeeping had evolved considerably in recent years, now incorporating diverse fields such as conflict prevention, mediation, respect for human rights, the rule of law, gender equality and humanitarian assistance, as well as strategic oversight of post-conflict reconstruction and long-term development. The European Union could offer a unique range of long-term and short-term instruments of conflict management and prevention, with emphasis on their targeted application to potential conflicts and the coordination of military and civilian elements. One of the keys to optimizing the Organization's crisis management tools would be the full-scale application of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

52. The security sector reform addressed in the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission was of paramount importance in conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and democratization, not to mention sustainable development. The Commission would undoubtedly encourage concerted peacekeeping action, and the European Union intended to work closely with it and its Support Office on the integrated planning system. The 2003 Joint Declaration on United Nations-European Union Cooperation in Crisis Management had allowed the European Union to share the peacekeeping burden by offering military assets or civilian response teams for deployment.

53. The challenging situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained a high priority for the European Union, which earlier in the year had helped secure the election process there by launching its own operation under Security Council resolution 1671 (2006) in close cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), thus increasing the country's trust in the impartiality of both Organizations. Interested in deepening its partnership also with the African Union, the European Union supported the recommendation in the 2005 World Summit Outcome for a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union. The European Union's quick action to ensure the deployment of reinforcements for UNIFIL under Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) was a sign of its high commitment. The establishment of a strategic military cell for UNIFIL within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was a significant step that could eventually be duplicated in other missions.

54. The European Union was gravely concerned about the precarious security environment prevailing in many missions. It called upon Member States to give priority, as did the Secretariat, to enhancing the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel in the field, and condemned in the strongest terms their killing in several missions. The primary responsibility for security lay with the host governments, which should respect their obligations under the Geneva Convention and hold accountable those responsible for violent acts against peacekeeping personnel or their premises. In addition, any peacekeepers guilty of gender-based violence or crimes against humanity should not be allowed to operate with impunity: such misconduct, so detrimental to the relations of peacekeeping personnel with the population of host countries, was unacceptable. While admittedly it was not easy to incorporate the issue of human rights in a peacekeeping situation, the European Union encouraged the use of peacekeeping capacity to protect populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

55. **Mr. Meechoo-Arrth** (Thailand) observed that the Department had done extremely well in managing the complex challenges of conducting 18 peace missions around the globe within the last 12 months. It was

urgent for peacekeepers to ensure the safety of civilians in the conflict areas: immediate action being one of the best ways to lower civilian casualties and stop a conflict from escalating, mission readiness was thus basic

56. His delegation was pleased to note that the Secretary-General in his report (A/60/640) had endorsed the need for a comprehensive review of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System. At the same time, there should be greater partnership in meeting the urgent funding and readiness needs of peacekeeping operations, and more of the developed countries should assist the developing countries that had served as the backbone of United Nations peacekeeping for decades.

57. The security of peacekeepers on the ground was another issue of particular concern. Increased attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Lebanon had made it a priority and the Department should have the ability to gather tactical information regarding new threats and dangers to their personnel in order to prevent them.

58. It was regrettable that an issue like sexual exploitation and abuse required attention. The abuse of trust by peacekeepers themselves could not be allowed to go on unchecked, and any misconduct should be dealt with seriously. His Government intended to take a greater part in peacekeeping operations, especially in Africa, where it was planning to increase its troops in the field considerably.

59. **Mr. Muburi-Muita** (Kenya) said that his delegation spared no efforts in helping to find solutions to conflict situations throughout the world. It participated in mediation activities in the African region and contributed peacekeeping troops to several United Nations missions. Kenya would be hosting the International Conference on the Great Lakes region in December 2006. His delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's move to set up partnerships that would help share the burden of peace operations. The African Union had demonstrated the will to take responsibility for its own security. Kenya's contribution was to host the headquarters of the Eastern African Standby Brigade and to establish the Kenya Peace Support Training Centre. As for the recent agreement between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the African Union's Peace Support Operations Division to build peacekeeping capacity, the support provided should extend beyond technical advice and include logistical back-up. Indeed, he proposed that the United Nations should urgently explore the possibility that the African Union might use stock from the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy whenever there was a need for quick deployment prior to intervention by the United Nations.

60. As well as participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions, Kenyan troops had also been involved in humanitarian demining activities. Following the establishment in Kenya of the International Mine Action Training Centre, Kenyan combat engineers were certified to International Mine Action Standard and were currently deployed with the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan. His delegation was, however, concerned that, although Kenyan troops carried out the most critical part of demining activities, they were paid less than contracted civilian firms.

61. Although his delegation recognized that some positive efforts had been made to improve recruitment to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, there was an urgent need to redress the imbalance in the geographical representation of Member States in the Department. The Secretary-General should take immediate measures to that end.

62. Personnel engaged in United Nations peacekeeping operations must conduct themselves in a manner that preserved the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. Any misconduct or even any perception of impropriety had a detrimental effect on relations with the local population. His delegation therefore welcomed the development of a mechanism to standardize acceptable norms of conduct. The task of investigating and trying misconduct or criminal acts should, however, be left to the Member State of the accused person, with the United Nations playing a supervisory role and providing the necessary administrative and logistical support. Commanders on the ground should continue to enjoy freedom of action within their mandates and in strict compliance with the United Nations code of conduct.

63. **Mr. Dicko** (Mali) said that, true to its traditional values, Mali had always contributed troops to peacekeeping operations, including officers of the Gendarmerie Nationale, observers and police officers,

beginning with the peacekeeping operations in the Congo in 1960, and including missions such as the United Nations Mission in Liberia between 2003 and 2004; the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola, 1997-1998; and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, 1997-1998. Mali had also participated in a number of peacekeeping operations under the banner of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States.

64. The terms and conditions for the participation of Malian soldiers and security forces in peace operations were set out in Decree No. 97-077/P-RM of 12 February 1997. Mali organized training courses for peacekeepers at the Boubacar Sada Sy Centre in Koulikoro, which were also attended by trainees from other west African countries. In addition, the Documentation Centre for Peacekeeping Operations had been established in July 2004 with the mandate of following the activities of Malian troops, publicizing information on them and helping to train new members of the missions.

65. The capacities of peacekeeping forces should be strengthened, in his delegation's view, by putting a greater emphasis on crisis management techniques, knowledge of the receiving country and, from the other side, knowledge of the United Nations and its principles. Such an approach would make for greater effectiveness.

66. **Mr. Morneau** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, which, together with Canada, made up the CANZ group of countries, expressed concern at the lack resources available to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations but welcomed the reforms carried out by the Department to improve its ability to support peace operations over the next decade. In view of the steady increase in the number and size of peace operations, it should consider requesting increased resources for the Military and Police Divisions resources in future budgets. Both Divisions were understaffed and lacked the resources to plan new operations on a sustained basis. The Secretariat should also explore the possibility of upgrading the status of military and police advisers to the level of Assistant Secretary-General, thus reflecting the importance of military and police advice in complex peace operations. The CANZ countries offered to help the Department with doctrine development and looked forward to learning more about the anticipated working relationship between the newly established Peacebuilding Commission and the relevant departments at Headquarters and in the field.

67. With regard to safety and security, excellent work was being done on the latter, but previously promised work in the safety dimension of the Department of Safety and Security should be urgently undertaken. In that connection, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should improve the capability of mission headquarters to provide mission members with risk assessments.

68. CANZ urged the General Assembly to consider a recommendation by a working group of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, contained in document A/60/696, that the support arrangements for staff officers in the field should be revised, thus eliminating the discriminatory remuneration treatment of staff officers relative to military observers, police and international staff members.

69. During the recent conflict in Lebanon, the Khiam patrol base had been destroyed by Israeli aerial bombardment which had killed four United Nations military observers. Under the current policy of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the States of which the four had been nationals had been denied the opportunity to have a representative on the United Nations board of inquiry investigating the incident, nor had a national board of inquiry been given the opportunity to interview United Nations staff. Following further requests by the countries concerned, the Department had, on an exceptional basis, provided an almost complete copy of its board of inquiry report, which would help the four States concerned complete their own inquiries. The current policy should be reviewed both by the Department itself and by the Special Committee at its substantive session in February and March 2007.

70. Formed police units had become an important element of United Nations integrated missions. There was, however, an urgent need to finalize the development of a policy and standards for such units in order to ensure clear command and control arrangements and reduce the potential duplication of responsibilities within missions.

71. CANZ welcomed the range of strategic initiatives aimed at building institutional police capacity in post-conflict environments. The Police Division's engagement with Member States in the development of

those initiatives had proved successful and should continue.

72. It was to be hoped that the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, which had been unable to complete its report in June 2006, would do so in December. The United Nations must enforce a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by all its personnel in mission areas.

73. CANZ urged the Secretariat to ensure that the policy paper and the fully developed reinforcement needs assessment on the concept of enhanced rapidly deployable capacities were provided to members of the Special Committee for review well before its next meeting. It should, moreover, ensure that the Police Division was involved in the further development of the concept. Options for a peace operations strategic analytical capability at Headquarters should be examined for the benefit of the needs assessment. The Secretariat rightly recognized the need for the further development of policy and guidelines for joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres. In that connection, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should address the issue of intelligence. When dealing with complex and multidimensional missions, the United Nations must have full access to intelligence collection and analysis. A review should be undertaken to that end by the Department, with the cooperation of the Special Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.